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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Validity of Rate Regulations.* By Robert P. Reeder. Published by T. & J. W. Johnson Co., Philadelphia. 1914. pp. 440.

The author of this book has chosen to treat a subject which is nowadays of vital concern to every citizen, for the reason that the cost of practically every commodity consumed and the price received for every commodity sold is largely dependent upon transportation rates. The subject is difficult because the power to regulate commerce is divided, the general power to regulate interstate commerce being delegated to the federal government while the same power relating to interstate commerce is reserved to the states. This apparently clear and simple division of power has been made unclear and difficult of ascertainment by the construction which has been given to the commerce clause of the federal constitution. For example, in the absence of congressional action, certain regulations affecting interstate commerce may be made by the states because the power to make *such* regulations is not vested "exclusively" in Congress; other regulations, however, may not be made, even in the absence of congressional action, because the power to make *such* regulations is vested "exclusively" in Congress. The industry of the various state legislatures in passing laws regulating commerce within this "construction zone" has kept the courts busy passing upon their validity. It is with this class of constitutional law questions that the book deals. Evidences of thorough understanding and painstaking industry are evident throughout. It must have taken years to gather the immense number of cases cited and the accuracy and pertinency of the citations show an unusually accurate knowledge of their content and bearing. The author has apparently examined all the cases bearing on the problem of rates and has made a keen analysis and estimate of their effect. Where points are not yet settled the problem is put, probable tests suggested, and the extent and effect of the cases already decided noted. In the matter of style the author is to be particularly commended for his lack of verbosity, a defect very common among legal writers to-day, there appearing to be a notion abroad that plurality of volumes is an indicium of merit. Mr. Reeder's book is distinctly worth while and is deserving of commendation.